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JUL 02 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Martin Hans et al
Application No. 10/705,523
Filed: November 10, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 10191/2479B

ON PETITION

This is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a), filed May 21, 2004.

The petition is dismissed.

Rule 47 applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this decision to reply, correcting the below-noted deficiencies. Any reply should be entitled "Request for Reconsideration of Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)," and should only address the deficiencies noted below, except that the reply may include an oath or declaration executed by the non-signing inventor. **FAILURE TO RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT OF THE APPLICATION.** Any extensions of time will be governed by 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) requires: (1) proof that the non-signing inventor cannot be reached or refuses to sign the oath or declaration after having been presented with the application papers (specification, claims and drawings); (2) an acceptable oath or declaration in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 115 and 116; (3) the petition fee; and (4) a statement of the last known address of the non-signing inventor. Applicant lacks items (1) and (4) set forth above.

As to item (1), petitioner has failed to adequately show or provide proof that the nonsigning inventor Detlef Lechner refuses to join in the application after having been presented with the application papers (specification, claims, and drawings). There is no indication whether Mr. Lechner was presented with a copy of the complete application papers. If Mr. Lechner was not presented with a copy of the application papers, then he could not attest that he has "reviewed and understands the application papers" and therefore could not sign the declaration which he was given. Did Mr. Lechner receive the application papers? See MPEP 409.03(d). Unless petitioner can show that a copy of the application papers was presented to Mr. Lechner, then petitioner will have to mail a copy of the complete application papers to Mr. Lechner at his last known address, return receipts requested. A cover letter of instructions should accompany the mailing of the application papers setting a deadline or a statement that no response will constitute a refusal. This sort of ultimatum lends support to a finding of refusal by conduct. The proof of

the pertinent events should be made by a statement of someone with firsthand knowledge of the events and should include documentary evidence, such as certified mail return receipt, cover letter of instructions, telegrams, etc., to support a showing that the nonsigning inventor has refused to sign the declaration after having been presented with the application papers. See MPEP 409.03(d).

Where there is an express or oral refusal, that fact, along with the time and place of the refusal, must be stated in an affidavit or declaration by the party to whom the refusal was made. Where there is a written refusal, a copy of the document(s) evidencing that refusal must be made part of the affidavit or declaration.

When it is concluded by the rule 47 applicant that an omitted inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in an affidavit or declaration. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the affidavit or declaration, such evidence must be submitted.

Whenever an omitted inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the affidavit or declaration.

As to item (4), a statement of the inventor's last known address is missing and is required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: Customer Window located at:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th street S
Customer Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Crystal Plaza Two Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

By fax: (703) 872-9306
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Wan Laymon at (703) 306-5685.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frances Hicks", is written over the printed name.

Frances Hicks

Lead Petitions Examiner

Office of Petitions

Office of the Deputy Commissioner

for Patent Examination Policy